

THE OUTCROP.

Published Every Thursday in the heart of a Wonderfully Rich Mineral and Agricultural District.

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W. P. REEVES,

Publisher and Proprietor.

CANTERBURY, B.C., THURSDAY, NOV. 14, 1901.

The people of North East Kootenay are to a certain extent showing a disposition to allow their interest in the mining and other resources of the district to wane. This should not be. The people of this district have every reason to be enterprising for we have as big and rich indications of mineral and as magnificent a timber and agricultural country as there is in this Province—More:

The land has been tilled to a greater extent this year than ever before.

The mines have shipped more, developed more and employed more men than ever before.

The prospectors have developed more systematically their claims than ever before.

The Legislature has expended more money on trails and roads than ever before.

The prospects of a railroad being built is brighter than ever before.

Let us cheer up. Look upon the bright side. We are in a good district and have to grow slowly only for the reason that the rest of the Province has dropped to a slow pace, which is entirely due to the market and other causes which are so well known.

Again, the managers of our principal mines are right now working their several properties in so thorough and extensive a manner as to inspire the most timid business men with confidence.

North East Kootenay is all right, and don't forget it.

The editor of the Inland Sentinel wrote to the agent general of New Zealand, in London, concerning the alleged failure of the arbitration act, and the many misleading reports concerning the working out of the act which have appeared in the English and Canadian papers. Mr. W. P. Reeves, the agent general, in replying enclosed a cable from Premier Seddon, and writes as follows:

"You will be perfectly safe in stating that it has been a success in New Zealand, and it is not in the remotest degree likely to be repealed. Any reasonable criticism made upon it is directed at details and incidents. No responsible section in the country talks of abandoning the law as a whole. Judge Backhouse, of New South Wales, who was recently sent to New Zealand by that colony as a commissioner to make an impartial inquiry into the law has reported in its favor."

At the present time there is a general tendency among newspaper writers to uphold the existing mining laws of this Province, or rather a tendency to write in favor of letting the vexatious subject alone.

This is a good move in one sense, but is open to ridicule in another. The Coast papers are more inclined to drop the subject than the interior, but it is a subject of more vital importance to the interior people. In fact the Coast papers, like the eastern papers to a considerable extent, have lost their love for the interior since they no longer have the big fake stock company ads.

For the past two years British Columbia has had one political crisis after another, and the changes in the mining laws have to no little extent been the reason.

The radical changes in the mining laws were of such a nature as to cause much trouble and loss of time and money. Yet in fairness it must be said that the present administration have seen best to make few changes in the laws, and the only objectionable change is the two per cent ore tax.

The reason of so much discontent in the mining camps is the fear of what changes will next be made in the laws, and time is the only thing that will eliminate this fear; no matter what set of men comprise the Legislature it will take time to prove that the laws will be made to suit the existing circumstances.

The reason so much space has been devoted to discussing the mining laws is the fact that mine managers cannot get the capitalists they represent to invest more and new capital is coming in very slowly.

The sense in which the move to uphold the present laws is good is that the more written about them only tends to give capitalists the impression that they should keep away from the Province. This is wrong. Capitalists can safely invest their money here with the assurance of making good profits.

And the sense in which it can be ridiculed is that if the laws are not what they ought to be newspaper writers would be false to their trust and the laughing-stock of their

readers, if they could get any. If the laws are unjust it is the duty of every newspaper to point it out and to do all they can to have them put right.

It is better to hammer away until right rules than to be lulled to sleep in the fear that harm might be done.

"High above all principalities and powers, above religious fanaticism or love of empire, above patriotism, family affection, honor, virtue, or things supernal or infernal, there now arises in this northwest wilderness an influence which shrivels into significance fur companies, licenses to trade, pounds per acre, skins of wild beasts or lives of men, missionaries, governors, parliaments, houses of assembly, and even rum."

That is Bancroft's introduction to the chapters in his History of British Columbia dealing with the invasion of the Fraser river goldfields by the hungry horde which swarmed over the Hudson's Bay Co.'s territories in 1858 and following years.

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